

## MINUTES

Town of East Greenwich  
Opioid Task Force  
June 6, 2018 at 2:30pm  
Town Hall, 125 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Committee Members in Attendance: Robert Houghtaling, Laurie MacDougal, Bob Siminski, Kelly Matson, Christine King, Carolyn Mark, Austin Verde, Jennifer Stern, Marcia Sullivan, Brenda McKinney, Jeffrey Heath, Kristen Henrikson, and Jonathan Malone.

Staff in Attendance: Catherine Bradley

Others Present: Lt. William Lacy, Col. Stephen Lynch, and Gaby Abbate

The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm

1. Welcome New Members

Members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2018

A motion was made by Ms. Matson and seconded by Ms. Mark to accept the minutes of April 4, 2018 as presented. The motion passed 11-0 with 2 abstaining.

-11 in favor (K. Matson, B. McKinney, A. Verde, C. Mark, K. Henrikson, J. Stern, J. Malone, R. Houghtaling, C. King, B. Siminski, L. MacDougal)

- 0 opposed

- 2 abstained (M. Sullivan & J. Heath)

3. Presentations

A. Burrillville Mental Health Presentation

Col. Stephen Lynch of the Burrillville Police Dept. gave an overview of how their town addressed the opioid crisis. In 2014-2015 they noticed an increase in opioid abuse and developed a program to address it. The Police Dept. was trained and carries Narcan. They created BAAP (Burrillville Addiction Assistance Program).

They have a full time Prevention Coordinator housed in the Burrillville Police Dept. who is responsible for managing the Partnership for Success grant and coordinating prevention programs for youth 12-20 years old. They also have a full time coordinator for the BAAP program who builds a bridge between the residents and addiction treatment and recovery support services.

Success of their program was found with good marketing, through building trust for individuals coming to seek assistance, and the willingness of the individuals to address their situations. Their program includes all addictions.

The Coordinator is very busy and receives many calls about the program. There is follow up with calls, off-site visits or in-home visits. Police Officers may go with the Coordinator for safety purposes based on the call. The Coordinator will follow-up, when the time is right, if the department has an overdose call they attend to. The Coordinator offers services and support.

They have two support groups, one for families and one for mothers who suffer from addiction. All officers have pamphlets on their program to distribute. They have \$90,000 budgeted in the Police Dept. for the coordinator, training, marketing, and transportation of clients to treatment facilities if needed. The BAAP coordinator is funded through a prevention grant.

Ms. Abbate noted the Town had a part-time substance abuse person, similar to Mr. Houghtaling's position, which was well received. They were limited to prevention services only with the Family Success Grant. They were able to sell the program to the Burrillville Town Council with data and trust from the Town Council. They started their program in January 2018. They have a Department of Health grant and did fundraising.

Col. Lynch noted the co-existence of mental health with addiction. He stressed that the department is true to their word that residents can surrender drugs with no questions asked without fear of arrest. Officers help with referrals. They market the program by being present at the Farmer's Market in town. They work with the Juvenile Hearing Board for connections and referrals.

Lt. Lacy talked about the VAASA (Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse). The Prevention Coordinator partners with the VAASA Coordinator. They offer mock accidents every two years to the Junior and Senior classes at the High School with a full reenactment from a car accident caused by drunk driving, a hospital scene, a court room scene and a funeral home using student actors, the Fire Dept., the Police Dept., and a local Deacon. He stressed the importance of getting High School students involved.

#### B. Kelly Matson-Opioid Use and Addiction

Ms. Matson gave a presentation on the statistics of opioids in the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island is 5<sup>th</sup> for fatal overdoses. East Greenwich is 30<sup>th</sup> for lifetime use of opioids. Kids Count RI has Rhode Island as 4<sup>th</sup> for current use of prescriptions. The Youth Risk Survey reports 9<sup>th</sup> graders at 15% lifetime use of opioids. East Greenwich had 9 overdose deaths between 2014-2017.

Ms. Sullivan noted a good documentary called "Off Label" on opioids. She noted her concern with seniors sharing and selling their drugs to one another.

Ms. MacDougal asked where residents can get Narcan other than from the Police, Fire or School Departments. Discussion ensued about making it available at churches and how to get people in the community trained to use Narcan.

#### 4. Old Business

##### A. Discuss Action Plan

Mr. Houghtaling suggested an idea for a part of the action plan. He suggested a tri - segment community forum that encompasses a mental health and addiction health fair, an informational panel discussion and then focus groups. This would take place on one evening.

Ms. King suggested that a part of the plan could be Narcan training for the community. Ms. MacDougal said training only takes about 15-20 minutes. It was suggested that Narcan training could be added to the community forum.

Ms. Mark suggested incorporating some of the Burrillville strategies and recommend to the Town Council that the East Greenwich Police have a similar program.

Mr. Houghtaling suggested enhancing the SROs' role in regards to prevention and intervention as part of their duties.

Ms. Mark suggested the East Greenwich Police make a personal visit to Burrillville Police for further investigation.

Ms. MacDougal showed the REST tool kit she has available. The bags cost about \$50 each. She has some for distribution and is seeking grants to obtain more. The idea was presented that maybe the Town can purchase some kits.

#### 5. Upcoming Events

##### A. Youth to Youth Conference

Ms. McKinney and Mr. Austin gave an overview of the Youth to Youth program. They noted that there are programs, activities, speakers about drugs and their affects. They show the students drug free activities. They meet new teens in "family" setting. They both spoke highly of their experiences with the program. They noted they make connections with youth from all over the country and world.

Mr. Houghtaling noted that the Youth to Youth Eastern State Conference will be at Bryan College July 27 to July 30, 2018. He noted this is its 30<sup>th</sup> year and needs adult volunteers. He asked the committee members to help.

##### B. CODE-Community Overdose Engagement-June 19, 2018, 1-4pm, Crowne Plaza

Mr. Houghtaling noted Governor Raimondo is holding this event on overdose. It will include networking opportunities and help provide strategies for communities.

#### 6. Open Discussion

Mr. Houghtaling will get together with Mr. Siminski and Ms. MacDougal over the summer to begin work on the tri-segment health seminar. The last week of October will be the potential time frame for the workshop. Ms. Mark suggested they reach out to Sherry Shunney the organizer of the Cole Health Fair.

Mr. Malone gave an overview of last month's spirituality forum.

7. Next Meeting

The members decided that Wednesday, September 5, 2018 would be the next meeting. Ms. MacDougal will give a 20 minute presentation. There will be a review of the Youth to Youth Conference. Ms. Stern will inquire on the availability of Judge Brian Stern to make a presentation at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Houghtaling to adjourn the meeting at 4:23pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Siminski. The motion passed with a vote of 13-0 with all in favor.

Submitted by Catherine Bradley September 5, 2018

Approved on: September 5, 2018

-9 in favor (Christine King, Jonathan Malone, Jennifer Stern, Kelly Matson, Carolyn Mark, Peter Henrikson, Bob Houghtaling, Gayle Corrigan, & Bob Siminski)

-0 opposed

- 2 not present for vote (Brenda McHenry, Austin Verde)